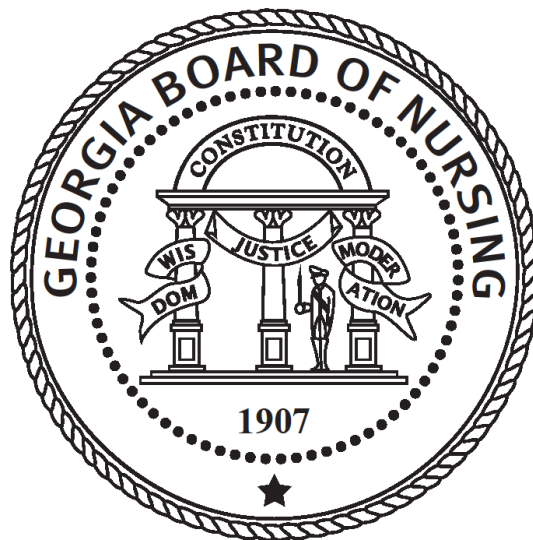


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# Georgia Board of Nursing

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**Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report**

# Introduction

The Georgia Board of Nursing ("Board") was created on August 22, 1907 by an act of the Georgia General Assembly.

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed practical nurses, registered professional nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, licensed practical nursing education programs and registered nursing education programs.

The Board exists to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare through legislative regulation and control of practical nursing and registered professional education and practice.

The Board is comprised of thirteen members appointed by the Governor: two registered nursing educators, one practical nursing educator, two registered nurses employed in nursing service administration, one registered nurse employed in nursing home administration or nursing service administration, two advanced practice registered nurses, one additional registered nurse, three licensed practical nurses, and one consumer member.

The Board develops rules and regulations that set the standards for nursing practice and education, provide the minimum qualifications for licensure, and ensure that the disciplinary process is implemented in a fashion that guarantees due process and public protection.

The Board meets in odd numbered months for three consecutive days and in even numbered months by teleconference. Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held at the Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

# Board Members and Staff

Janice Izlar, RN, CRNA, DNAP – President

*Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Member*

Amy Hooper, LPN – Vice President

*Licensed Practical Nurse Member*

Brenda B. Rowe, RN, MN, JD – Immediate Past President

*Registered Nursing Education Member*

Kellie R. Lockwood, RN, MSN – Immediate Past Vice President

*Practical Nursing Education Member*

Nancy Barton, RN, MSN

*Nursing Service Administration Member*

Tracey Blalock, RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC

*Nursing Service Administration Member*

Fredettena “Tina” Fletcher, LPN

*Licensed Practical Nurse Member*

Linda G. Floyd, RN, EdD, PMHNP-BC

*Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Member*

Merry Fort, RN

*Nursing Service Administration Member*

K. Andrea Phipps, LPN

*Licensed Practical Nurse Member*

Dellarie L. Shilling, RN, DNP, FNP-BC

*Registered Nursing Education Member*

Blair Train

*Consumer Member*

Julia Worthy, RN, MSN

*Registered Nurse Member*

Jim Cleghorn, MA

*Executive Director*

## Overview

As of June 30, 2017, the Board had record of the following active licenses:

Licensed Practical Nurse – 30,573

Advanced Practice - CRNA - 1,889

Advanced Practice - CNM - 524

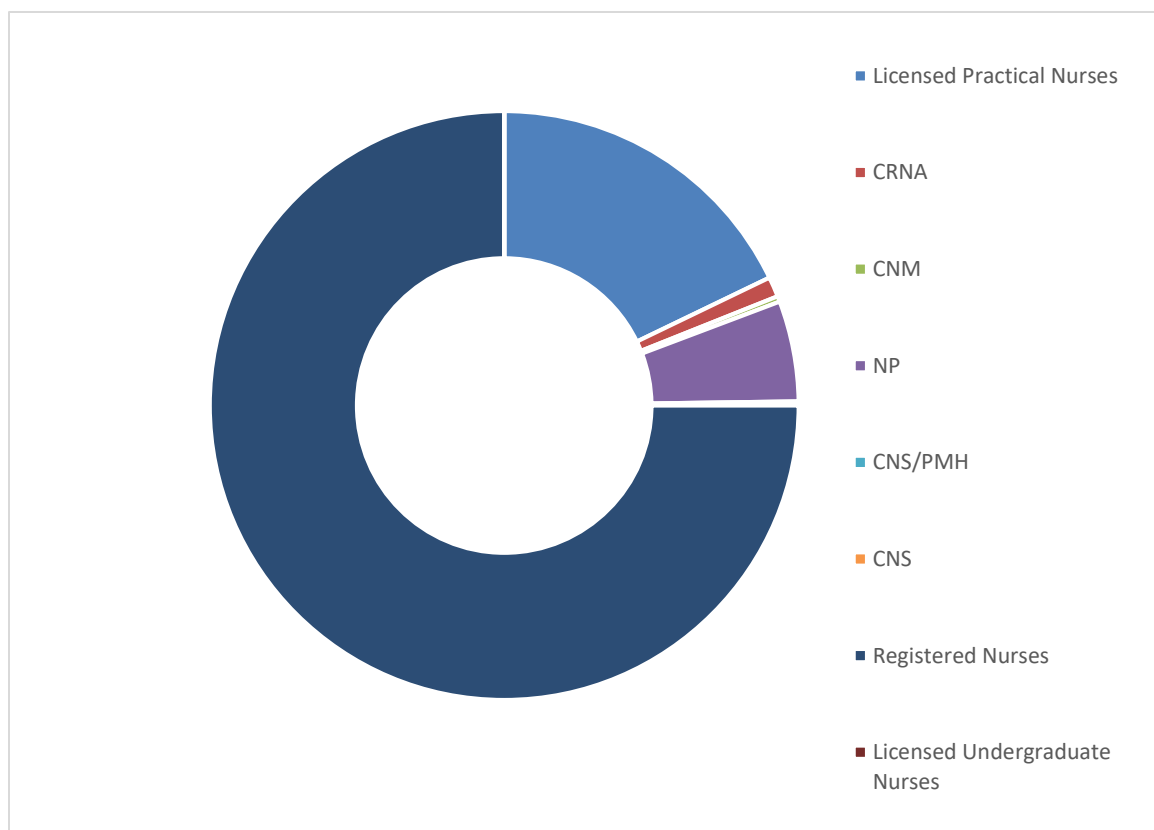
Advanced Practice - NP – 9,453

Advanced Practice - CNS/PMH - 229

Advanced Practice - CNS -151

Registered Professional Nurse - 128,469

Licensed Undergraduate Nurse – 1



# **Committees of the Board**

## **Investigative Committee**

Members of the Board comprise two investigative committees. The investigative committees review complaints, investigations and other information to determine if a violation of the Nurse Practice Act has occurred and to make recommendations to the Board regarding disciplinary actions.

## **APRN Committee**

The APRN Committee is comprised of twelve (12) authorized APRNs: two certified nurse midwives, three clinical nurse specialists, three certified registered nurse anesthetists and four nurse practitioners. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board and provides information and recommendations to the Board regarding the regulation of advanced practice registered nurses.

## **Nursing Education Committee**

The Nursing Education Committee is comprised of twelve (12) registered nurses involved in registered and practical nursing education: three practical nursing education program members, two associate degree nursing education program members, three baccalaureate degree nursing education program members, one master's degree nursing education program member, one public nursing education program member, one private nursing education program member and one at-large member. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board and provides information and recommendations to the Board regarding the regulation of registered and practical nursing education programs.

### **Nursing Practice Committee**

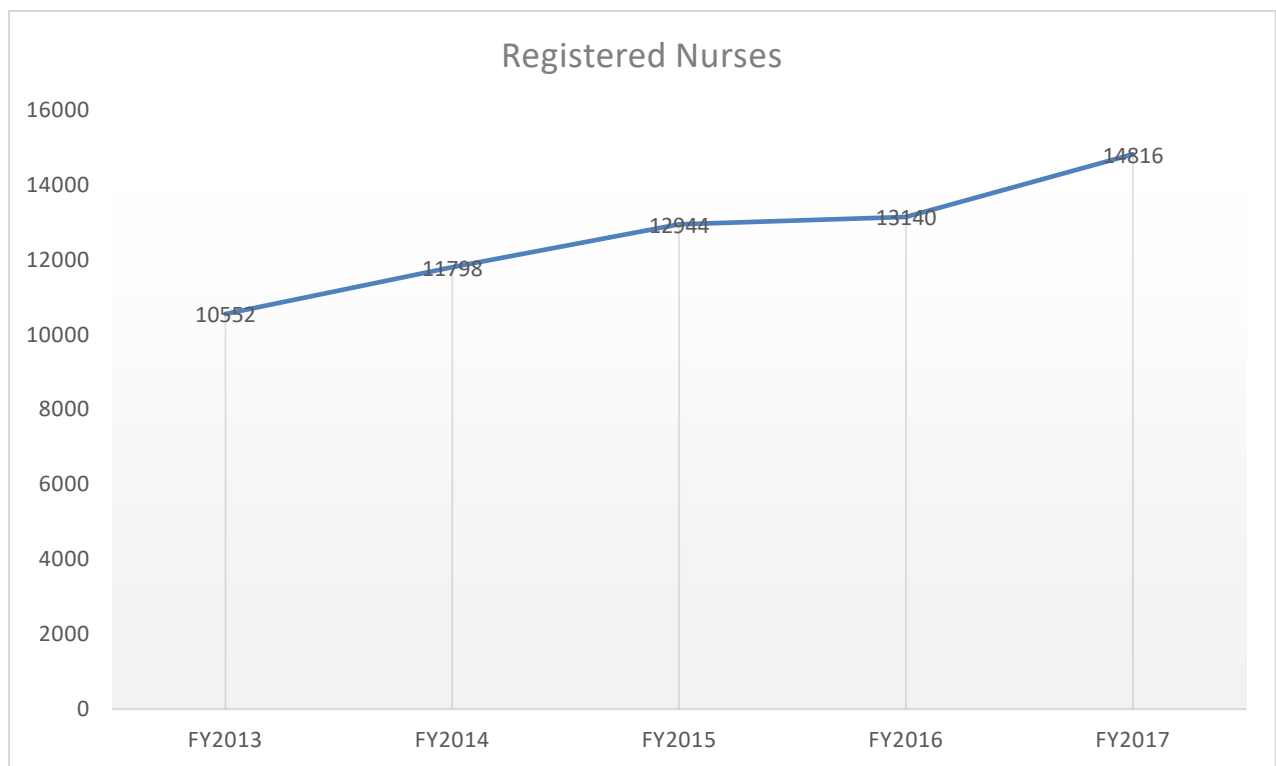
The Nursing Practice Committee is comprised of twelve (12) registered nurses involved in current nursing practice from a variety of practice settings. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board, reviews and analyzes practice trends and issues for nurses in Georgia and recommends programs, policies and strategies to enhance the practice of nursing.

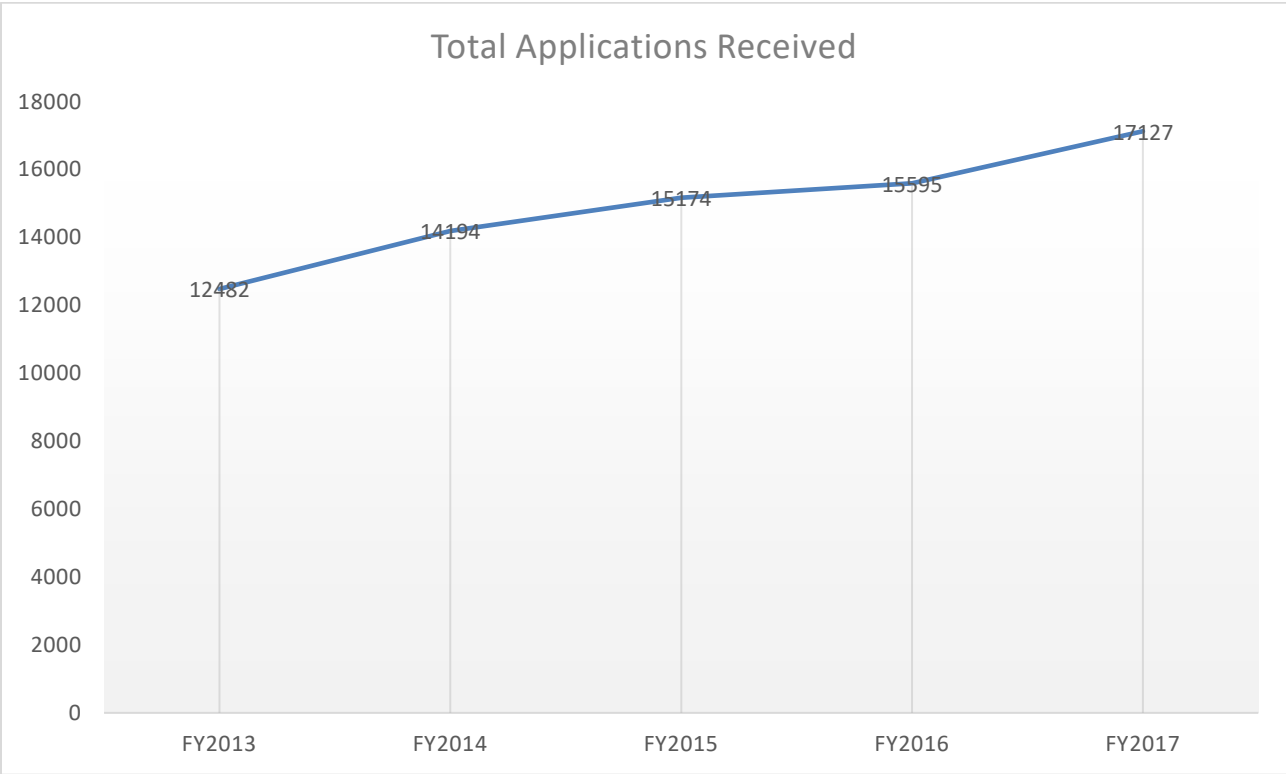
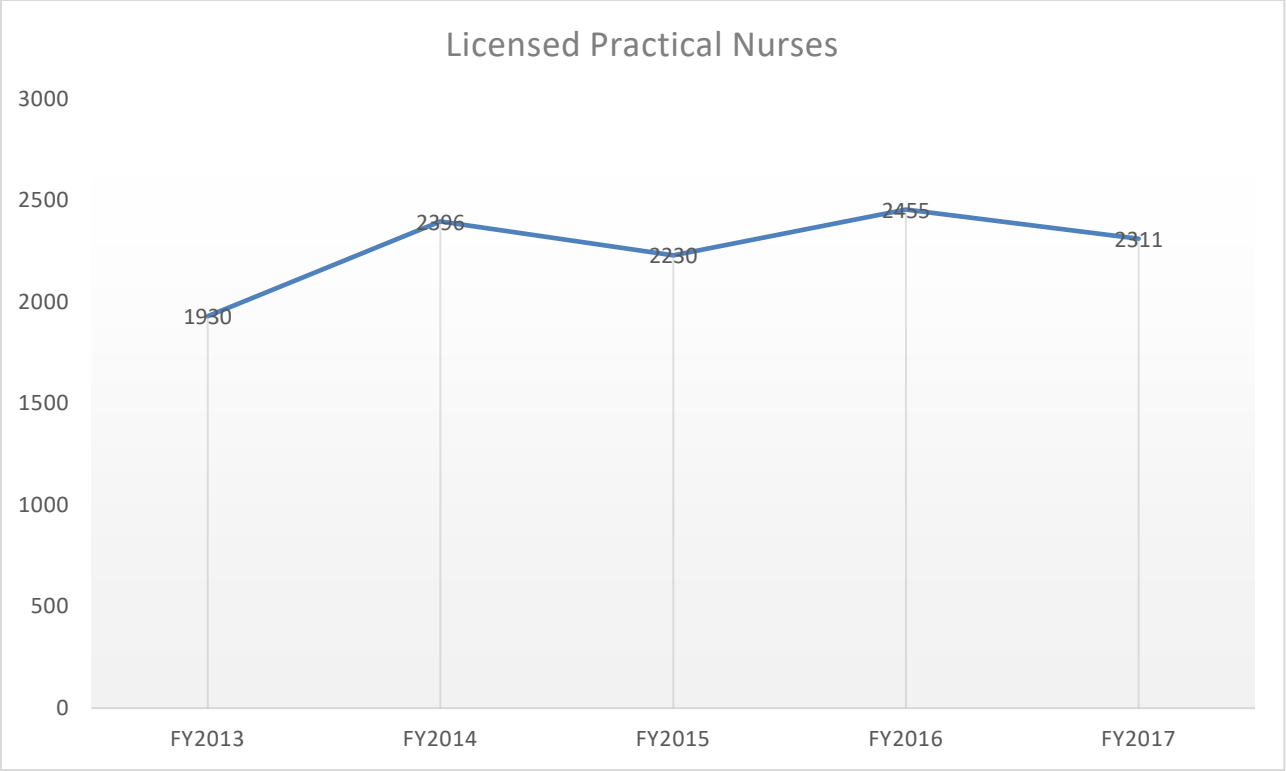
# Licensing

The Board exists to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare through legislative regulation and control of practical nursing, registered nursing and advanced practice registered nursing practice. This is accomplished by ensuring that licensed individuals meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for licensure and have the necessary education, training and skill to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

In FY2017, the Board received 17,127 (14,816 RN and 2,311 LPN) applications for licensure. This number represents a 9.8% increase in applications from FY2016 (15,595). The number of applications received has increased 37.2% since FY2013 (12,482).

## Applications Received From FY2013 Through FY2017

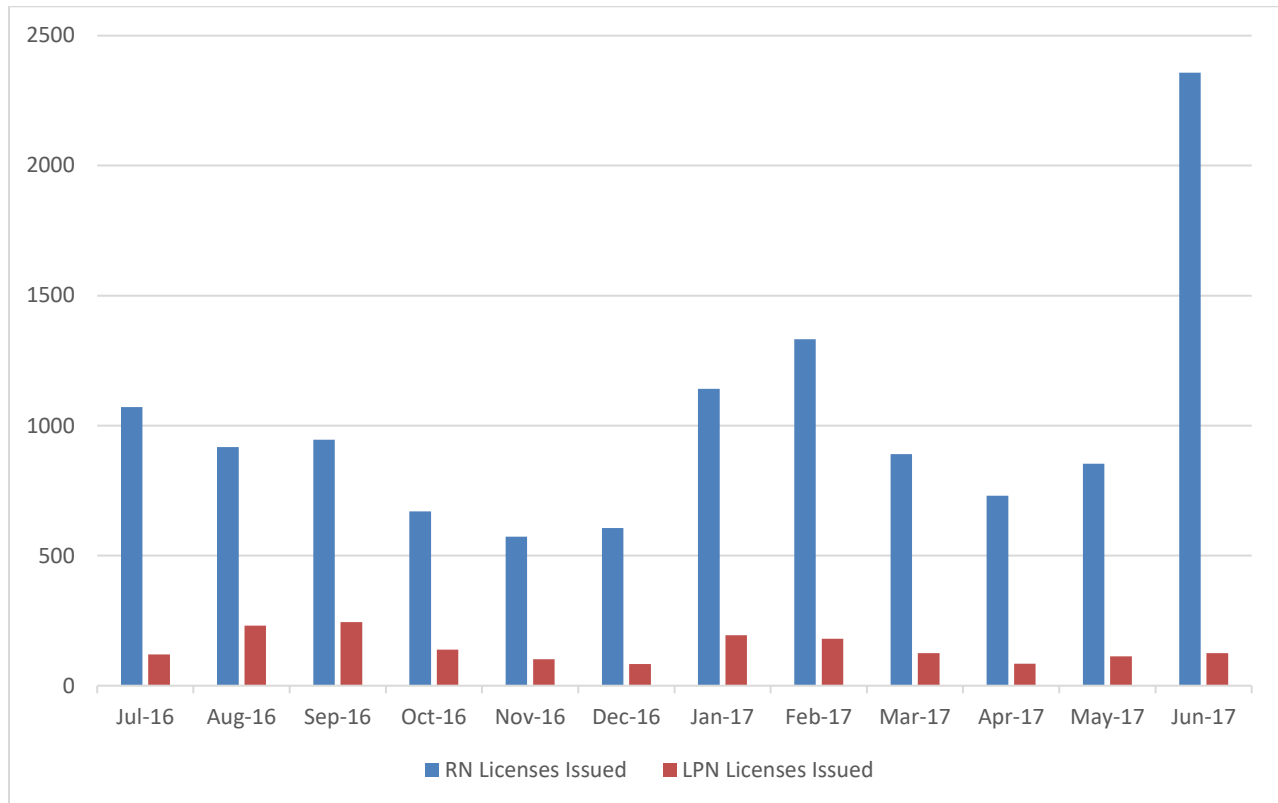






In FY2017, the Board issued 13,915 licenses (12,172 RN and 1,743 LPN). This represents a 5.9% increase in licenses issued since FY2016 (13,146). The number of licenses issued has increased 31.7% since FY2013 (10,570).

### Licenses Issued

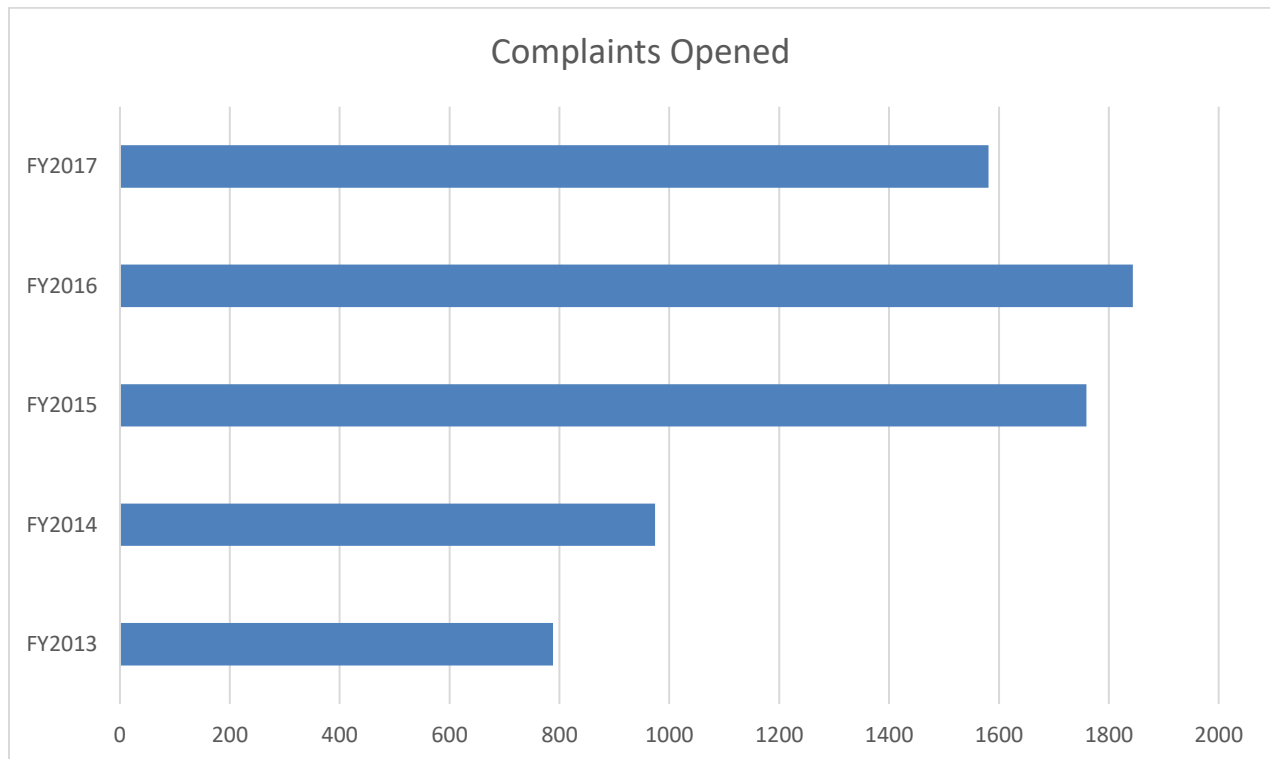


# Enforcement

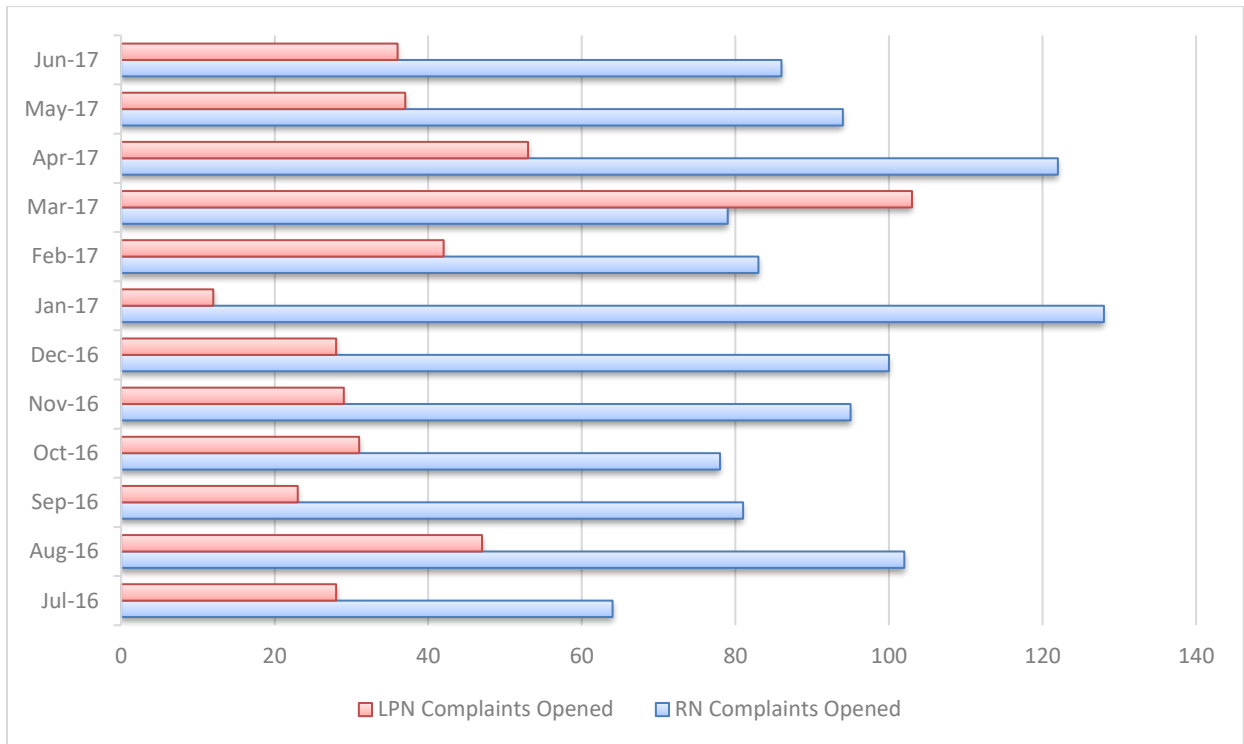
To fulfill its statutory mission to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare, the Board is responsible for enforcing the Georgia Nurse Practice Act and Board rules used for the regulation of the nursing profession in Georgia. This is accomplished by reviewing, investigating and taking action on complaints submitted to the Board regarding the practice of licensed nurses in Georgia.

In FY2017, the Board opened 1,581 complaints (1,112 RN and 469 LPN). This represents a 14.3% decrease in complaints opened since FY2016 (1,844). The number of complaints received has increased 100.6% since FY2013 (788).

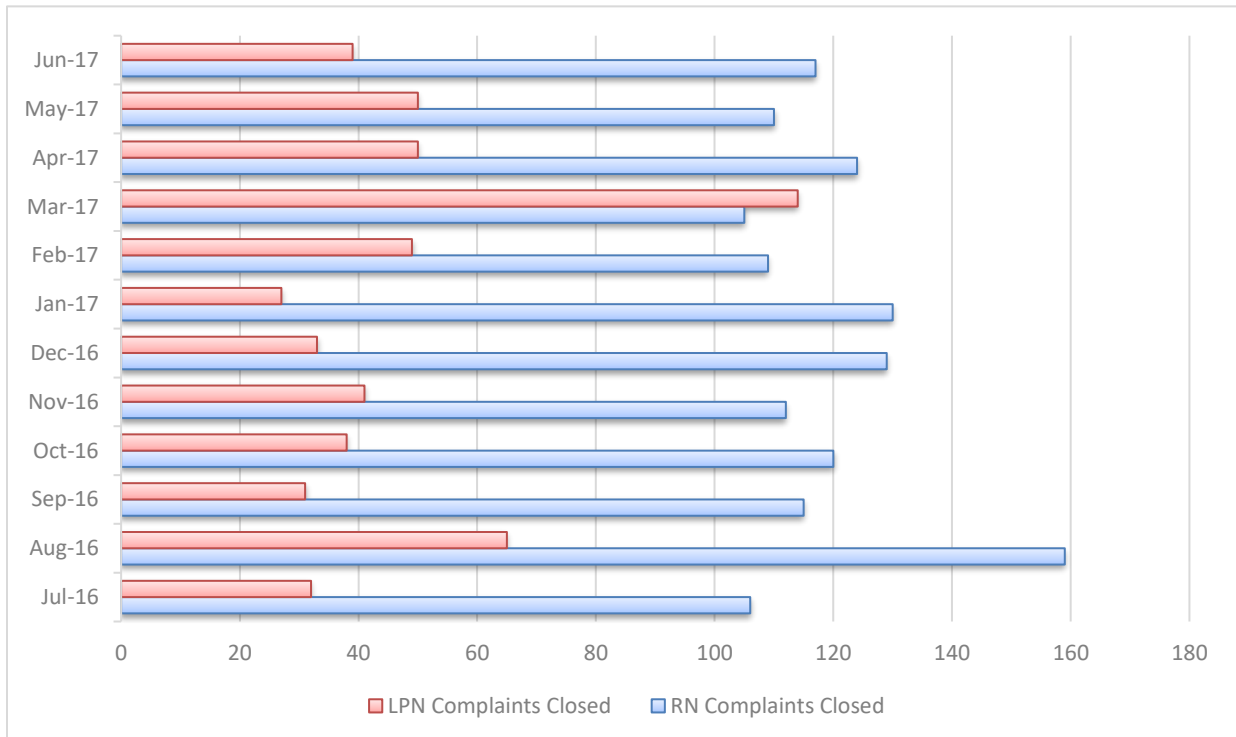
**Complaints Opened by Fiscal Year**



## Complaints Opened

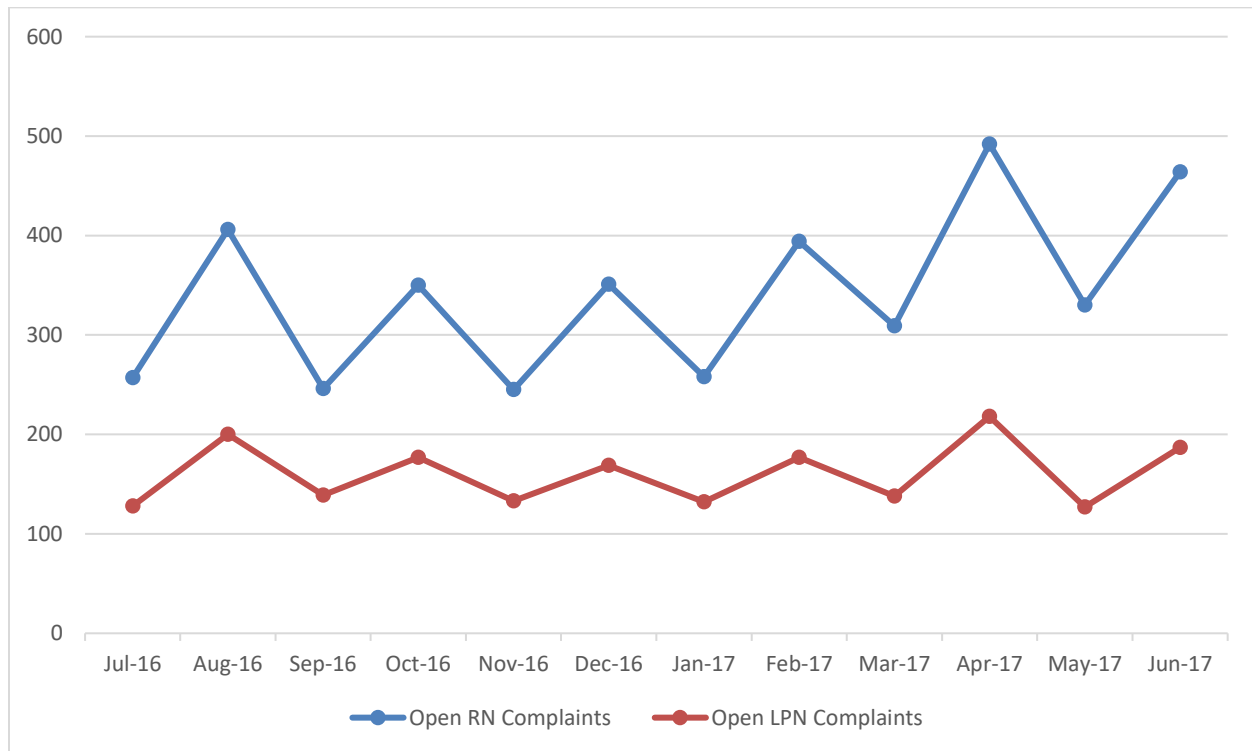


## Complaints Closed



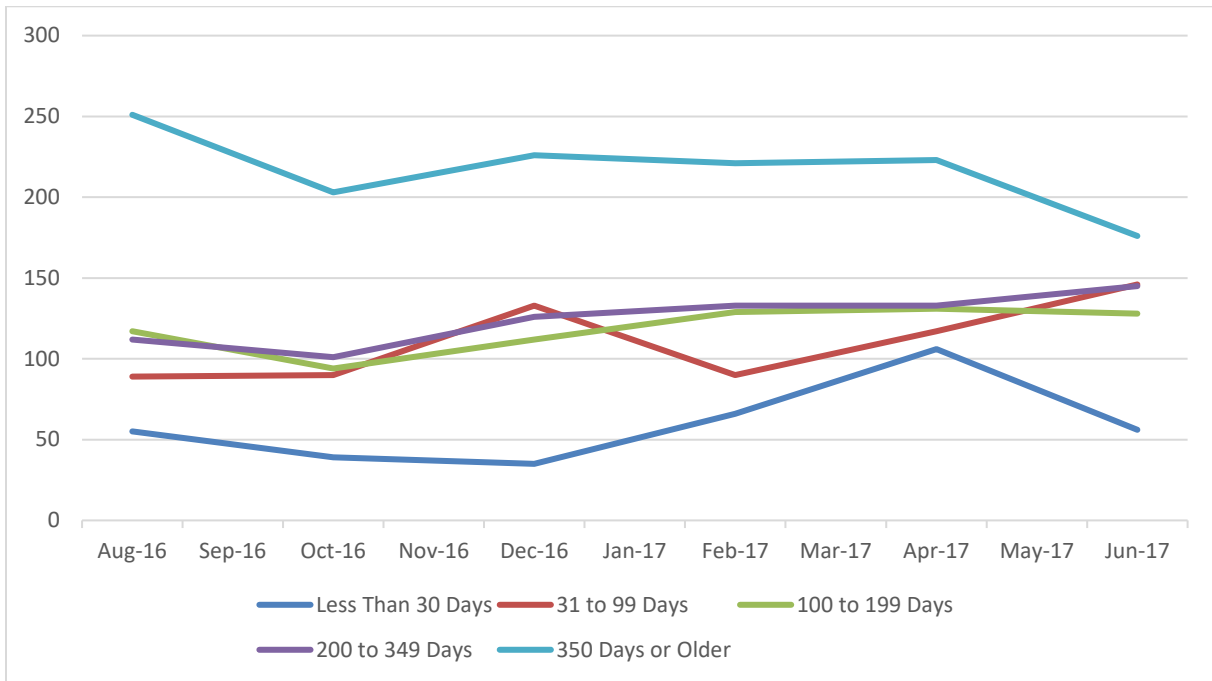
The Board began tracking the total number of open complaints by month in September 2014. As of June 30, 2017, the Board had 651 open complaints (464 RN and 187 LPN). This represents a 15.2% decrease in open cases since June 2016 (768).

### Open Complaints



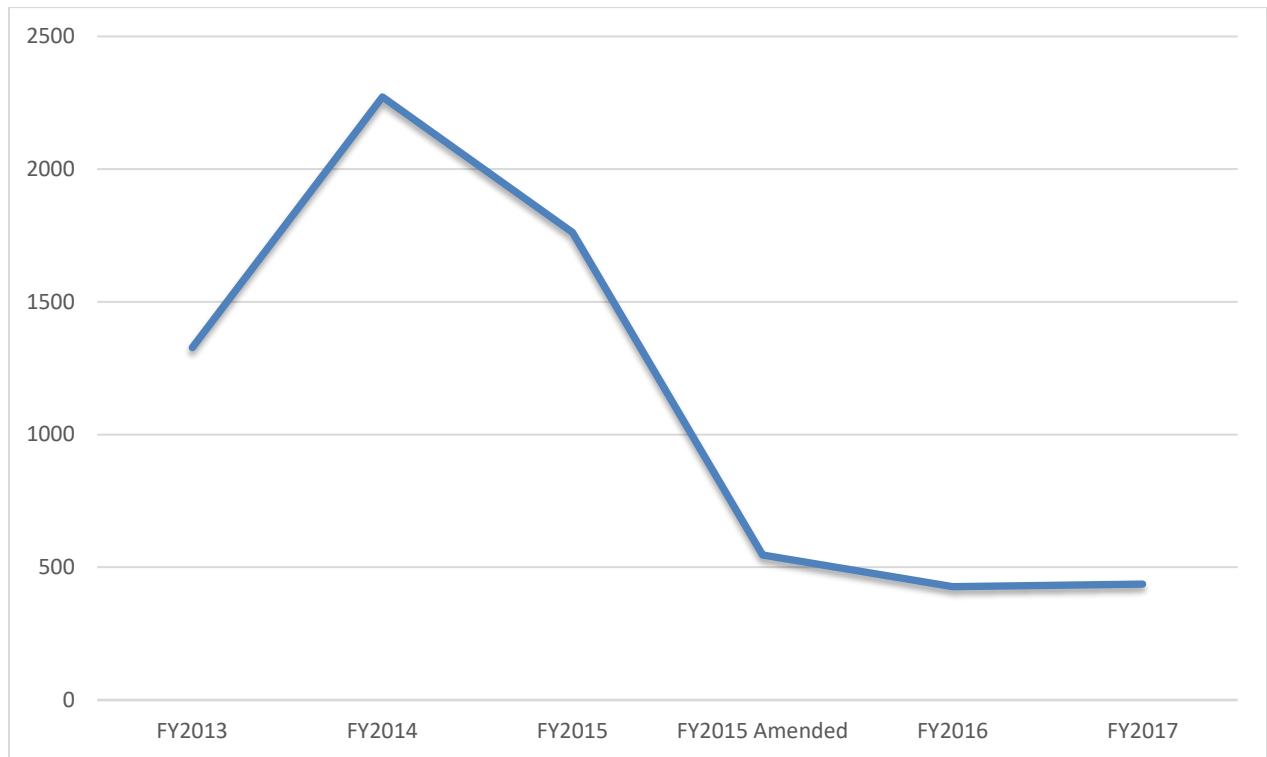
The Board began tracking complaint aging information in October 2014. Information is tabulated every two months in preparation for the Board meetings. In FY2016, the Board has seen a 45% decrease in cases over 350 days.

### Complaint Aging Information



In FY2014, the Board began tracking the total number of days a complaint aged from receipt to resolution. In FY2017, the average number of days a complaint aged increased by 2.3% (437).

### Average Number of Days from Receipt To Resolution



# Education

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed practical nursing education programs and registered nursing education programs. This is accomplished by reviewing proposals for new nursing education programs and ensuring that the institution has the components required in Board rules to open a successful nursing education program and by reviewing existing nursing education programs and ensuring compliance with all Board regulations.

Nursing Education Programs					
	Approval Status				
Programs	Developmental	Initial	Full	Conditional	Total
LPN	0	0	22	0	22
RN (ASN)	1	4	20	2	27
RN (BSN)	0	3	23	4	30
RN (MSN)	0	0	1	0	1
Total	1	8	65	6	80